



The Heart of Moscow

Lead-in

- 1 Look at the title. What do you think is 'the heart of Moscow'?
- 2 What are the landmarks in the pictures? Where are they?
- 3 What other landmarks are there in Red Square? Read or listen and check your answers.

Reading & Listening

- 4 Listen to a tour guide talking about Red Square and match the information.

- a 17th century
- b 67.3 metres
- c 16th century
- d 3.38 metres
- e 1612

- 1 Kremlin clock made
- 2 Spasskaya Tower
- 3 war against Poland
- 4 Red Square got its name
- 5 minute hand of the Kremlin clock

- 5 Read and underline the correct word in sentences 1-4. Then explain the words in bold.

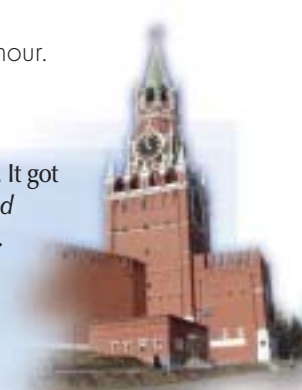
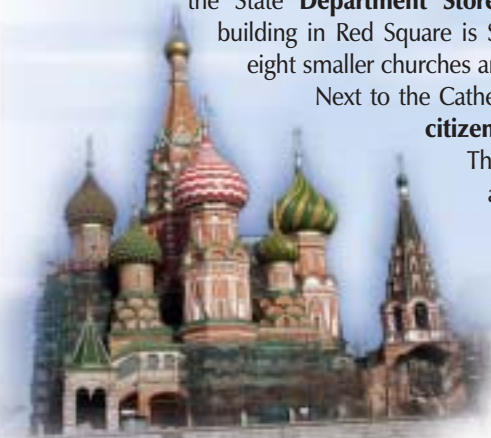
- 1 Moscow/Red Square got its name in the 17th century.
- 2 The name *Red Square* means **beautiful/large**.
- 3 The Kremlin clock strikes **three/four** times per hour.
- 4 St Basil's Cathedral has **eight/nine** churches.

"... And here we are at the heart of Moscow, Red Square. It got its name in the 17th century. In old Russian the word *red* means *beautiful*. As you can see, Red Square is very large. There are interesting landmarks in it.

In the centre of Red Square, by the Kremlin wall, you can see the Lenin **Mausoleum** designed by the **architect** Alexey Victorovich Shchusev. To the left there is the Spasskaya Tower, the tallest of the Kremlin towers. It is 67.3 metres high. The tower is famous for its clock, the Kremlin clock, made in the 16th century. The clock **strikes** every hour, half hour and quarter hour. The minute **hand** is 3.38 metres long.

In the square you can also visit the State History **Museum** and the State **Department Store** (GUM). The most famous building in Red Square is St Basil's Cathedral. There are eight smaller churches around the tallest ninth church.

Next to the Cathedral, there is a **monument** to **citizen** Minin and Prince Pozharsky. They were **heroes** in the war against Poland in 1612. It was the first monument built in Moscow. Now does anyone want to ask me anything before we ..."



Speaking

In groups, draw a map of Red Square. Use the phrases below to present it to the class.

- In the centre of the square, you can see ...
- The most famous place is ...
- Next to that is ...
- There is also ...

The Cathedral of Christ the Saviour



- 1)
The Cathedral of Christ the Saviour is in the centre of Moscow, not far from the Kropotkinskaya metro station.
- 2)
Tsar Alexander I decided to build the cathedral to **commemorate** Russia's victory over Napoleon in 1812. The cathedral was designed by the 19th century architect Constantine Ton and **construction** work began in 1839. Sadly, Tsar Alexander I died in 1825, but work on the cathedral **continued** and was completed under Tsar Alexander III in 1883.

The cathedral was destroyed on 5th December 1931 because the communists decided to build a Palace of Soviets. The Palace was **intended** to be 415 metres tall with a statue of Lenin on the top. However, World War II **ruined** these plans. For several years, the **construction site**, with a large crater and a foundation stone engraved with the words 'FOR CENTURIES' **remained** unchanged. Then, in 1958, an open air swimming pool was built there.

3)
In the 1990s, the fantastic dream of rebuilding the cathedral finally came true. The foundation stone for the new cathedral was laid on Russian Orthodox Christmas Day (7th January), 1995. The new cathedral is an exact copy of the original and is now a **sacred** place for religious people and one of Moscow's main tourist attractions.

Lead-in

- 1 Look at pictures A-D. What do these pictures have in common? Which pictures show the same building?

Reading & Listening

- 2 Listen and match the information.

1812	Tsar Alexander I dies
1839	Cathedral destroyed
1825	Swimming pool built
1883	Napoleon defeated
1931	Original cathedral completed
1958	Construction starts
1995	Foundation stone laid



- 3 Read the text and fill in the correct headings.

HISTORY

REBUILDING THE DREAM

LOCATION

- 4 Explain the words in bold.

Speaking

In pairs, ask and answer questions about the Cathedral.